

Agency Overview

Eighteen years after Idaho Territory was established in 1863, a group of its early settlers created the Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers. Determined to preserve and celebrate their own heritage, many of those individuals later encouraged the establishment of the Idaho State Historical Society as an agency of the State of Idaho in 1907.

The Society operates as an agency of the Idaho State Board of Education with additional oversight from its own seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the State Board. Each Trustee represents a different region of the state based on a geographic configuration similar to the seven judicial districts of Idaho.

The collections of the Society were first housed in a basement room in the Idaho State Capitol Building. The agency now provides services to the citizens of Idaho from facilities in five Boise locations, three historic sites located elsewhere in the state, and the Lewis and Clark Education Center in Lewiston.

Programs of the agency directly reach more than a quarter of a million people annually. The staff offers technical assistance and historical expertise to the general public, educational institutions, county and local historical societies, and other entities concerned with the prehistory, history, and historic preservation throughout the state and elsewhere as appropriate.

Mission Statement

To educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's cultural heritage.

Vision Statement of Purpose

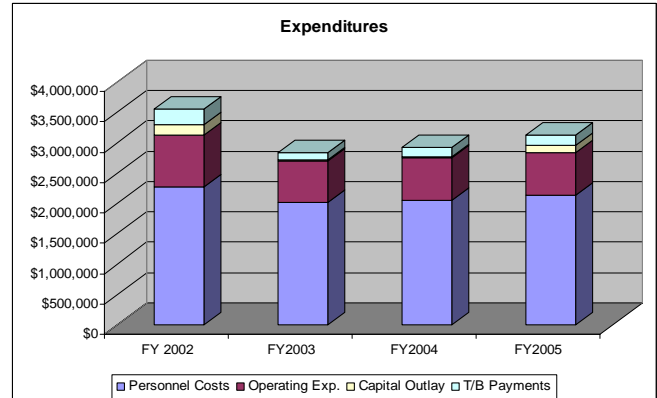
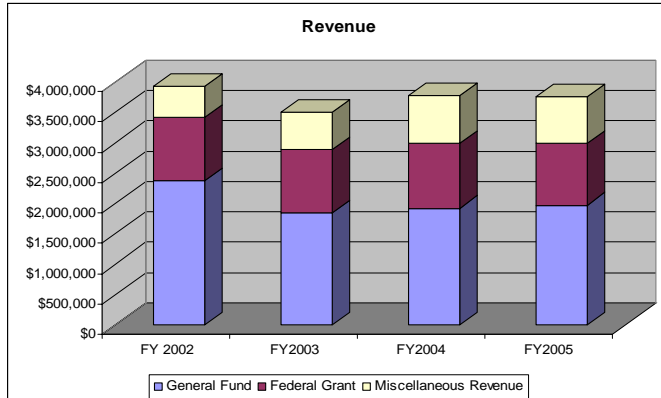
The Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) acts on behalf of the citizens of the state to facilitate and assure the protection of Idaho's cultural heritage. The ISHS maintains access to documents, artifacts, and sites that can be used by the public for their benefit and appreciation. The ISHS maintains historic and prehistoric resources. Access to these resources is provided through public outreach, publications, technical assistance, exhibits, and the encouragement of local, state and regional efforts to preserve history. The ISHS undertakes and promotes these activities through its goals and policies in accordance with the powers and duties assigned to it.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Idaho has a rich history and prehistory whose chronicles deserve to be preserved and made available to its citizens. The Idaho State Historical Society is charged with responsibility for that preservation. This is done primarily in accordance with Chapters 41 and 46 of Title 67 of the Idaho Code, and through other statutory capacity assigned under Titles 14, 31, 33, 58, and 63.

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$2,368,900	\$1,840,400	\$1,923,700	\$1,973,800
Federal Grant	\$1,044,500	\$1,048,900	\$1,063,700	\$1,015,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$519,600	\$614,900	\$793,900	\$780,500
Total	\$3,933,000	\$3,504,200	\$3,781,300	\$3,769,300
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$2,277,200	\$2,009,700	\$2,049,700	\$2,134,900
Operating Expenditures	\$854,100	\$690,100	\$705,300	\$707,600
Capital Outlay	\$168,300	\$11,900	\$17,400	\$121,300
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$259,200	\$125,500	\$157,700	\$161,800
Total	\$3,558,800	\$2,837,200	\$2,930,100	\$3,125,600



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
*Public Archives/Research Library patrons served	10,761	9,510	10,697	11,428
*Materials added to Public Archives (cubic feet)	4,778	2,876	3,777	4,649
*Research Library items cataloged	11,861	6,508	9,303	5,731
*Oral History interviews and related materials created	1,255	551	424	257
*Number of paid visitors to the Historical Museum per annum (fees implemented October 1, 2003)	0	0	22,308	21,845
*Historical artifacts and objects processed at the Historical Museum	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,100
*Number of students (K-12) receiving educational material from the Historical Museum	5,000	5,200	5,200	5,200
*Number of students participating in Idaho History Day contest	1,050	659	700	1,000
*State Historic Preservation Office review of environmental impact clearances (required by federal law)	1,397	982	1,100	1,185
*Historical and Archaeological sites added to the Archaeological Survey of Idaho	2,409	2,502	1,500	1,068
*Historic sites added to Idaho Historic Sites inventory	863	352	1,771	613
*Estimated dollar benefit to Idaho business through federal Tax Act projects (000s)	2,280	1,600	1,700	6,300
*General Tour visitation to ISHS Historic sites statewide	34,163	35,290	37,500	37,000
*Number of guided interpretive tours provided at the Old Penitentiary	700	556	500	520
*Man hours spent to maintain, restore and repair Old Pen buildings	7,500	8,500	7,500	6,000

Performance Highlights:

Work continued on the 35,000 square foot addition (Phase II) addition to the Idaho History Center to provide additional research facilities and increased access to historical library and archives holdings (expected occupancy: October/November 2005).

Public records requests at the Public Archives and Research Library have increased from 100 during the fourth quarter FY2002 to slightly over 1,200 during the fourth quarter FY2005 due primarily to requirements of the Patriot Act and increased background checks for Homeland Security.

Idahohistory.net Web site usage has grown from zero to an average of 1,197 user sessions per day in five years, with the average user session length of 10 minutes 57 seconds.

For More Information Contact

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